

December 2012



Dear Colleagues,

Climate change remains one of today's most critical international environmental problems. Methane, the second most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) after carbon dioxide, is considered a short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP), meaning that it has a relatively short lifespan in the atmosphere. Unlike other GHGs, methane is the primary component of natural gas and can be converted to usable energy. Reducing methane emissions is a cost-effective method to reduce GHGs that yields important co-benefits, such as air quality, increased energy security, and improved worker safety.

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) aims to reduce methane emissions and advance the abatement, recovery, and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source. GMI achieves this by creating an international network to build capacity, develop strategies and markets, and remove barriers to methane reduction project development in Partner Countries. From the beginning, the United States has been a strong leader of GMI. The United States is currently providing technical, financial, or capacity-building support to about 700 global projects and activities that reduced methane emissions by approximately 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂E) in 2011 alone.

In October 2011, more than 160 GMI Partner Country representatives, government leaders, and technical experts from 31 countries gathered in Krakow, Poland, for a Partnership-wide meeting that included site tours and technical and policy sessions. During this meeting, the GMI Steering Committee approved plans for a third Partnership Expo that will be hosted by the government of Canada in Vancouver in March 2013. Similar to past Expos held in China and India, Methane Expo 2013 will be comprised of general plenary and concurrent sector-specific sessions and is expected to attract nearly 750 participants from more than 40 countries. As in years past, the United States is taking an active role in Expo planning and preparation.

Within the last year, renewed international interest in reducing emissions of certain air pollutants led to development of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) that targets global emissions of SLCPs such as methane. As a CCAC founding partner, the United States has already committed \$12 million in new funding to this effort, which represents a concrete step forward in taking further action on SLCPs. The CCAC provides an additional venue for GMI Partners to share their methane reduction expertise and capacity building experiences garnered through GMI as well as learn about methane abatement from other countries and organizations that join CCAC.

As Chair of the GMI Steering Committee and as a representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, I am very pleased to report on these accomplishments and look forward to leading the United States' continued engagement in international methane mitigation.

Sincerely,

Gina McCarthy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy", written in a cursive style.

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, U.S. EPA
Steering Committee Chair, Global Methane Initiative